Report of Task Force on bio-fertilizers

2777. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the task force on bio-fertilizers on the potential of bio-fertilizer user in differnt States and agro-climatic regions and delineate response areas has submitted its report to Government;

(b) whether it has advised that there is tremendous potential in the emerging bio-tech industry which can pave the way for sustainable growth in agriculture, where bio-fertilizer can play a significant role; and

(c) if so, what are the details of this case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE INTHE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a)Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The task force has given a number of recommendations in its report for the promotion of bio-fertilizers in the country, which, *inter-alia,* includes the following:

(i) Promotion and extension activities for encouraging and popularising their use;

(ii) Fixing of Quality Control parameters and Amendment of Fertilizer Control Order;

(iii) Creation of Research & Development and Testing facilities;

(iv) Engagement of qualified personnel in production & handling of bio-fertilizers.

Rapid Environment IMPACT Assessment Report on Mining by KIOCL

2778. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Rapid Environment Impact Assessment Report has observed that no mining should be allowed in Gangdikal and Nellibeedu areas by Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited;

(b) if so, who were the members of the said study team;

(c) whether KIOCL has been pressing for renewal of mining lease for another twenty years; and

(d) whether Government have requested the Karnataka Government to exclude the proposed areas and all other areas held by KIOCL from the final notification of the Kudremukh National Park?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As per the report prepared by Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, mining of fresh areas at Gangdikal and Nellibeedu would result in more devastation of the landscape and biodiversity of Kudremukh and would be totally incompatible with the existence of a National Park in the region. The Report has been prepared by Prof. R. Sukumar, Prof. P.P. Majumdar, Dr. M. Sekhar and Dr. P.V. Sivapullaiah of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore with expert inputs from Dr. K. Ullas Karanth, Director, Centre for Wildlife Studies, Bangalore; Dr. Mewa Singh, Mysore University, Dr. C.P. Shaji, Kerala Forest Research Institute; and Shri Surya Rao Addoor, Mangalore University.

(c)Yes Sir.

(d) No Sir. The Ministry had requested the State Government to complete the process of final notification of the National Park as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 only.

Amendment of FCA for Coffee Cultivation in Andhra Pradesh

2779. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any request has been received from the Andhra Pradesh Government for allowing its farmers to grow coffee in the State;

(b) if so, when such request was received in the Ministry;

(c) the action taken thereon; and

(d) whether there is any proposal before the Ministry to bring in an amendment to the Forest Act, 1980, for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. A proposal for diversion of 80,000 hectares of forest land for coffee plantation in Narsipatnam, Paderie and Visakhapatnam Forest Divisions of Andhra Pradesh has been received in February, 2001. As per the provisions of the Forests (Conservation) Act, 1980 plantation of coffee has been defined as non-forestry activity. As such, diversion of such large